

New Library Described From Basement To Roof

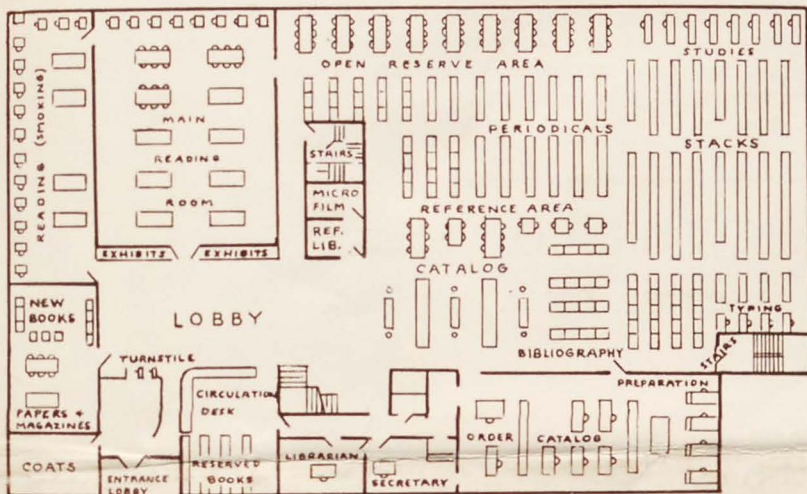
One of the more interesting parts of the blueprint for the new library is the floor plan, showing the location of the various components of a library's service. We shall attempt to describe the layout of the new building.

Let's start at the bottom. In the basement is located all the electrical and ventilating equipment for the building and the motor for the elevator. The rest of the space is unused right now and is available for expansion.

Ground Floor Center

The ground floor is the main center for books and contains open stacks with a capacity of over 200,000 volumes, in addition to a receiving room for shipments. Also on this floor are rest room facilities and public telephones. The books on this floor are in the humanities and social science field, much the largest section in the library.

The main floor is on the same level as the quad and contains the only entrance to the library, facing the Chemistry building. Directly at the entrance is the main circulation desk, behind which are the closed reserve sections. Straight ahead is the main reading room. A cloak room and smoking lounge seating about fifty are located just to the left of the entrance and exhibition lobby, which opens on the exit. To the right of the lobby is the



Plan of Main Floor

reference department, which is the nucleus of the entire library. It contains the card catalogue, information desk, and bibliography and reference book shelves. Also found on the main floor are the new microfilm reading machine, the open reserve shelves, and bound and unbound periodicals. Altogether, about 75,000 volumes will be found on this floor.

Second Floor Science

The second floor contains a locked stack for the special collection and open stacks for science and engineering books, together numbering about 75,000 books.

The top floor is the place for the Watkinson Library collection: a 150,000 volume research collection of material in the humanities field. The stacks will be closed, and reference service will be provided by the Watkinson librarian, Miss Ruth A. Kerr. There is also a small reading room, the office of the Librarian, and additional rest room facilities. An interesting spot will be the James Hammond Turnbull Rare Book Room, named for the first librarian of the Watkinson collection.

Microfilm Machine Given for Recording

Recently, the college, in accordance with the plan to furnish Trinity with the best in college libraries, has acquired two valuable pieces of equipment—a microfilm machine and a microcard machine.

Purchased by the college, the microfilm machine projects onto a screen matter which is photographed on a film. The 35mm microfilm, resembling movie film, is manufactured by the Eastman Kodak Company and is useful in recording newspaper and magazine matter. The college already subscribes to the New York Times which puts ten days of newspapers on one roll of film.

The microcard machine, given by a library associate, projects prints which have been reduced in size and put on cards. These microcards, the same size as standard library cards, but with a glossy finish, are used primarily to record scientific material and journals. The college has already purchased material for the chemistry library. Both these machines, invaluable in the respect that they cut down on storage space by ninety-five percent, will be installed in the reference department of the new building.



Microfilm and Microcard Machines

Temporarily installed on the main floor of the stacks of Williams Memorial, the microfilm and microcard machines have proved useful to a number of students needing to do research work. The machines have been operated under the direction of Mr. George Adams.

Library Will Open for Fall Use; Books To Be Moved This June

Architects' Drawing



Pictured is the painting of the new library building by the architects, O'Connor and Kilham, which appeared in the TRIPOD over a year ago.

A Letter From the Librarian

I am pleased to have this opportunity to tell you something about our new library building and the plans now being made for its occupation and formal opening in the Fall.

At the outset I should like to express to the Class of 1952 my regret that the building could not have opened for at least a part of your last year. For long we had hoped that this would be possible, and I know that you must feel a bit cheated. However, at this time I extend an official invitation to each and every Senior to a specially conducted Class of 1952 tour of the new Library at Homecoming next November 7th. I hope many of you will be on hand that day in your first visit as Alumni of Trinity.

The big task just ahead of us is the transfer of the College's 225,000 books and the 130,000 volume Watkinson collection to their new shelves. We start on June 16, the day after Commencement, and expect to be occupied at this until Labor Day. The packing and unpacking at each end is to be handled by a group of your confreres under the direction of the Library staff; the actual moving by a local professional moving concern. There are several factors which make the transfer a complicated one. Among these are the cramped quarters in the present stacks and the lack of an elevator there, the necessity of dismantling and re-erecting our present shelving before the Watkinson can be brought out here, and the fact that this latter library must be brought down from upstairs and loaded into trucks in the congested Main Street area of Hartford.

None of these problems is insurmountable, however, and we have every expectation of having the new Library fully ready to open in September. When the classes of 1953, 1954, and 1955 return you will find at



Mr. Donald B. Engley

your disposal not only a collection numbering more volumes than any other college of comparable size in the nation, but one with appointments designed to make your academic work as comfortable and pleasant as possible. Open shelves, the best in lighting, ventilation, and sound-proofing, sturdy and attractive furniture, smoking areas, and facilities for microfilm reading and record-listening will all add up to a new and satisfying experience as you go about your study tasks.

The Library staff will be on hand to greet you in the Fall and introduce you to the new building. I am sure you will find it inviting and will want to take early advantage of its facilities. Best wishes for a good summer.

DONALD B. ENGLE, Librarian.



Professor Emeritus Arthur Adams

Dr. Adams Active in Early Building Plans

The fondest wish of Professor Emeritus Arthur Adams will be realized this June when the Trinity Library moves to its new location. Dr. Adams, who retired a year ago to devote all his time to the New England Genealogical Society, had spent the last ten years of his tenure campaigning for the new library building.

Dr. Adams came to Trinity as an Assistant professor of English in 1906. He was professor of English and head of the department in 1915, when he became Librarian of Trinity College, a position he was to hold for thirty-six years. Under his direction,

the library grew to its present size of 225,000 volumes, and it was through his efforts that the Watkinson Collection was obtained.

Students, Moving Co., Take on Major Task

Under the direction of Librarian Donald Engley, and Reference Librarian George Adams, the movement into the new library will commence on June 16.

The project, according to estimate, should be completed by Labor Day. The majority of persons who will be employed will be students living in the Hartford area. Professional movers will also be employed by the college.

Students Employed

The students will work in both buildings, packing and unpacking. In the Williams Memorial, they will clean and pack the books, in catalogue order, which the movers will then transport to the new building by truck. When they reach the new building, they will be unpacked by the students under the direction of Mr. Engley and arranged on new shelves.

As the shelves in the old building are emptied, they will be dismantled, taken to the new building, and rebuilt for use in the fourth floor Watkinson stacks.

Watkinson Remains Unclassified

The Watkinson Library, presently housed in downtown Hartford, will be moved to the Library starting in August. The same staff will handle this job. At the moment, the Watkinson library is not classified. Mr. Engley estimated that it would cost the college approximately \$100,000 for the classification, and at present, these funds are not available. However, as soon as the money is appropriated, the classification will begin.

Dewey System Utilized

Rare books in the Trinity and Watkinson libraries will be transported under a special procedure. Each load of books will be insured in case of any mishap.

When the Watkinson is completely catalogued, the entire collection, with the exception of a few special collections, will be recorded under the Dewey Decimal System.

Engley Found To Be Key Library Figure

By Jim Foley

In handing out the praises to those who have worked on the new library, certainly a good share of them should go to Mr. Donald B. Engley, the chief Librarian and the man who has been burdened with the planning and principles of the structure.

After graduating from Mt. Hermon Academy, Mr. Engley went to Amherst where he began his library career. From Amherst he went to the Columbia Library School to study for his M.L.S. During the war, he was in the 79th Infantry Division as a battery Commander and at the close of the war he was librarian in a school at Biarritz, France for four thousand soldiers. In 1947 he received his M.A. at the University of Chicago and worked at the Amherst, Columbia, and New York public libraries and Norwich University before coming to Trinity in 1949.

One of Mr. Engley's special interests is library building and planning, and he has visited college libraries from Maine to Florida. Drawing from the knowledge received, he has designed a library to help students and faculty in the learning and teaching processes as much as possible.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY



Pictured above are former Librarian Arthur Adams and former President G. Keith Funston participating in the ground-breaking ceremony on November 11, 1951. On the chilly afternoon following the Amherst game, Dr. Adams wielded a century-old spade which belonged to David Watkinson, a Trinity founder whose will established the Watkinson Library.

Decentralized Study Facilities Are Added Feature of Building

The Library is unique in that it is designed for decentralized study.

The comparatively small central reading room is supplemented by special purpose rooms and niches for individual students. This new plan facilitates access to the books and permits students to work in the area of the library from which they are using reference material.

For example, fifty specially constructed desks, called carrels, are to be installed around the sides of the stack rooms. Four Seminar Rooms, on the second floor, will be available for discussion groups in which reference material is used. The walls will be bare so that the rooms may also be used for special art exhibits.

One of the unique features of the building is the Record Listening Room on the second floor which a movable partition supplies with kitchen facilities. Combined, the two rooms will be used for lectures, teas, and receptions before exhibits.

Sound equipment at this time includes a speaker for group listening but many additions will probably be made. The Foreign Language Department plans to integrate the sound equipment into its courses.

Advanced students, faculty, and visiting scholars will be able to use small cubicles for their work, and may be assigned them for long periods. Sixteen of these tiny rooms, each with a desk and a book shelf, will be available for men doing extended research.

PRESENT LIBRARY STAFF



(Left to right) Back row: Miss Anna Angelo, Mrs. Laura B. Schatz, Mrs. Mary E. Kennedy, Mr. George W. Adams, Mr. Donald B. Engley. Front row: Mrs. Marian Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Ives, Miss Shirley Bader and Miss L. Harris.

Miss Kerr Gives History Of Watkinson Collection

Miss Ruth A. Kerr has been the librarian of the Watkinson Library since the death of Mr. Frank B. Gay about 25 years ago. Reminiscing about the many little incidents that enliven a day's work at the library, Miss Kerr remarked that many a day had been interrupted by a small boy's inquiry about "the book bound in human skin." Cataloguing provides some problems as the library has witnessed three successive revolutions in filing systems and, like the Egyptians, has never been quite able to extirpate the old ones.

Miss Kerr stated that the Library found that its original endowment of \$100,000 was not sufficient and a plan was suggested to keep the library intact by giving it to a suitable recipient. Through the influence of President Funston, the trustees decided to award it to Trinity if a suitable building were erected.



Mr. George W. Adams, Reference Librarian, who has charge of the reading room, of Government documents, of student assistants, and of inter-library loans.

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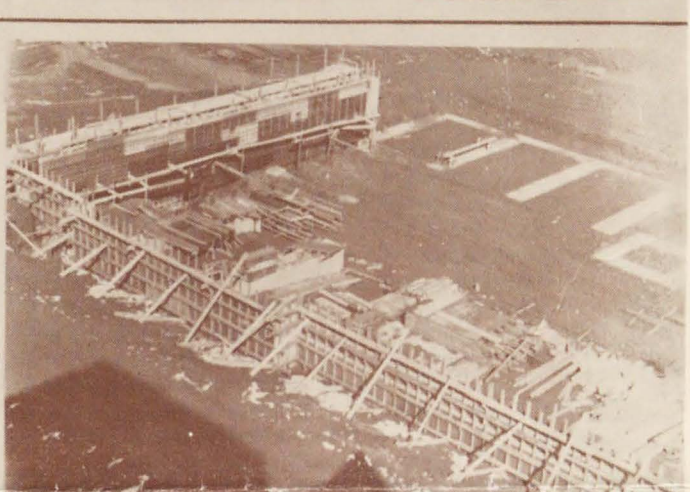
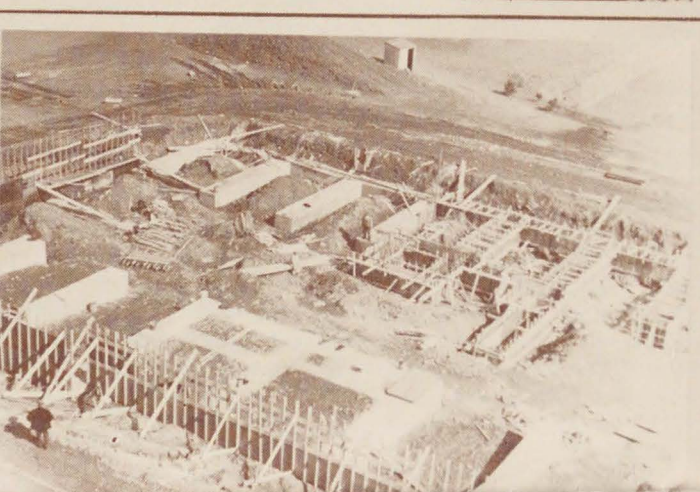
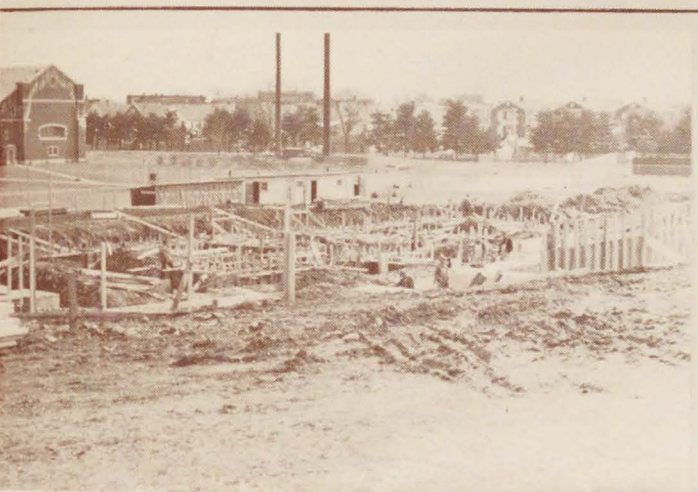
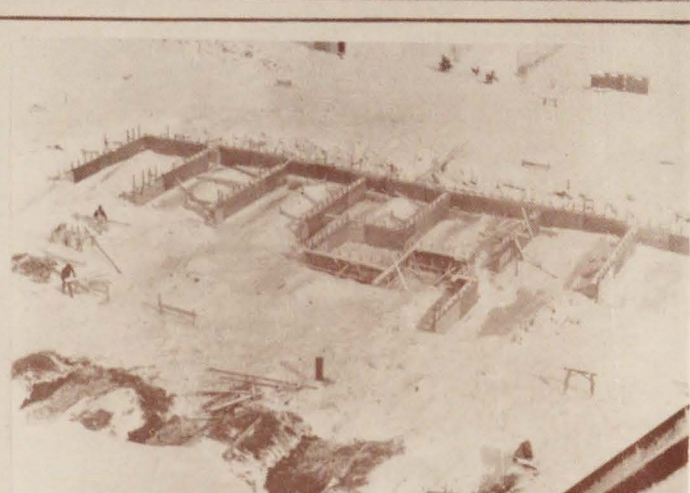
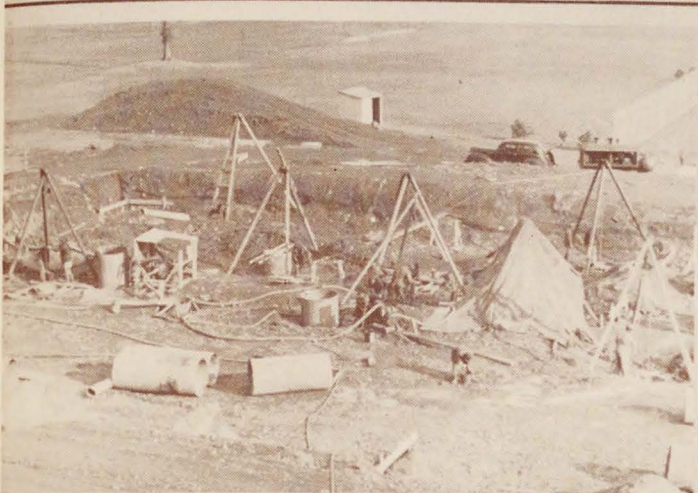
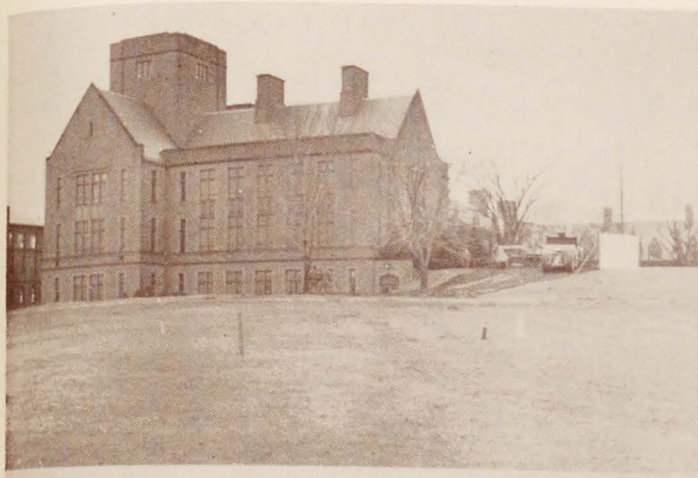
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Top: Nov. 21, 1950—First day of operations; Dec. 6—Excavating for the basement; Dec. 6—Men work on the caissons for the foundation. Second row: Dec. 18—Sinking caissons is slow work; Jan. 8, 1951—Work goes on despite several inches of snow; Feb. 9—The first foundation walls appear. Bottom: Feb. 26—The work approaches the ground level; Feb. 26—The work from above; Mar. 5—The walls begin to rise.

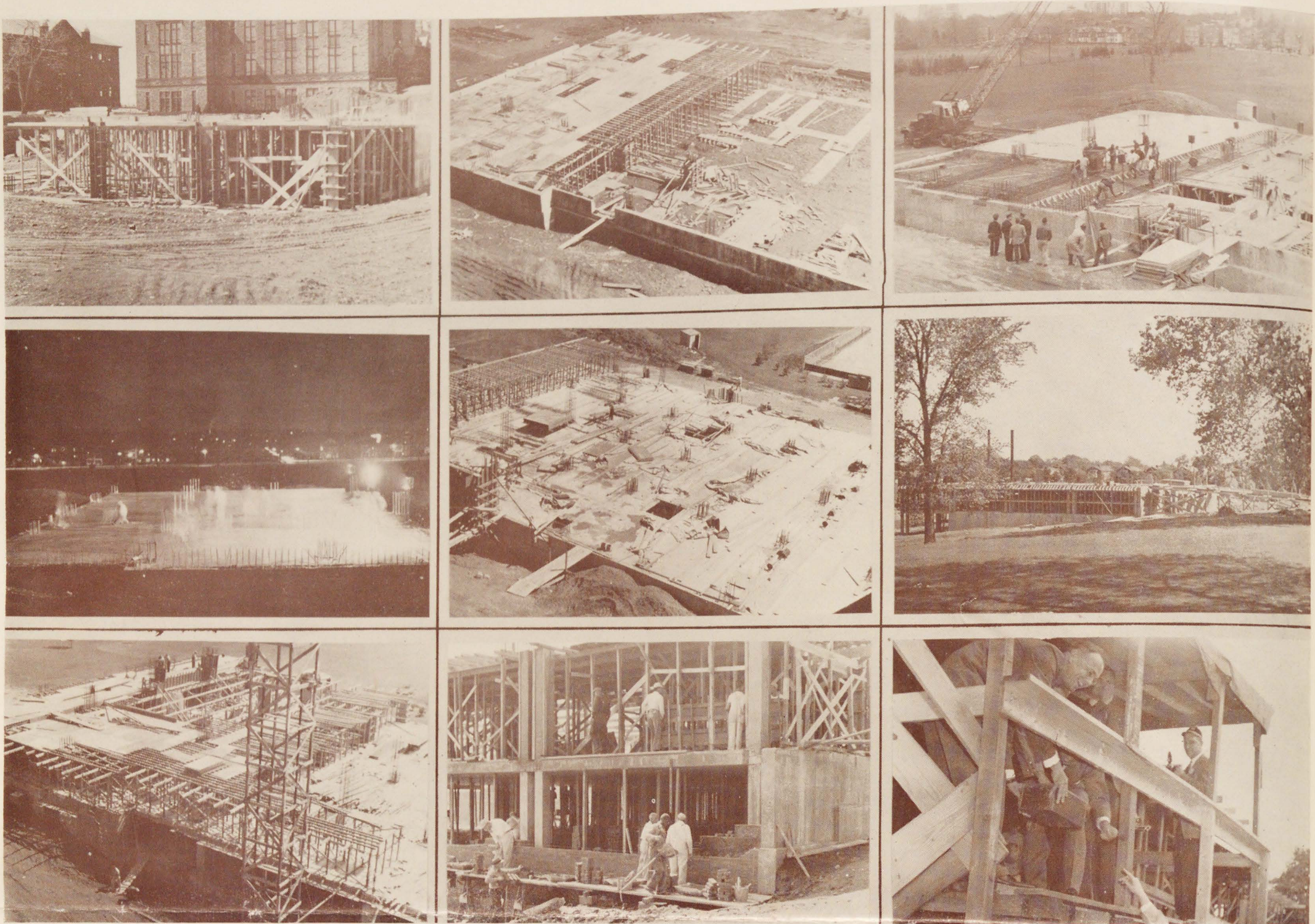
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Top: Mar. 15, 1951—Supports for the floor form; Mar. 31—A view of the floor form from above; Apr. 9—Pouring the first floor. Second row: Apr. 9—Work on smoothing the concrete goes on even at night; May 3—Beginnings of the second floor; May 13—As the library looked from the Bishop's statue. Bottom: June 6—The third floor goes on; June 6—Bricklayers begin their work; June 16—G. K. Funston collects coins for inclusion in the corner stone.

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Top: July 20, 1951—Slowly the building goes up; July 26—One floor yet to go; Oct. 10—The building reaches its height. Second row: Oct. 10—The first steel for the roof goes in place; Nov. 9—Ready for roofing; Nov. 9—Another Bishop's-eye view. Bottom: Nov. 17—The main reading room on the Wesleyan week-end, complete with water on the floor; Nov. 17—A sky view from the top floor; Dec. 19—Snow again, but this time with at least the roof on.



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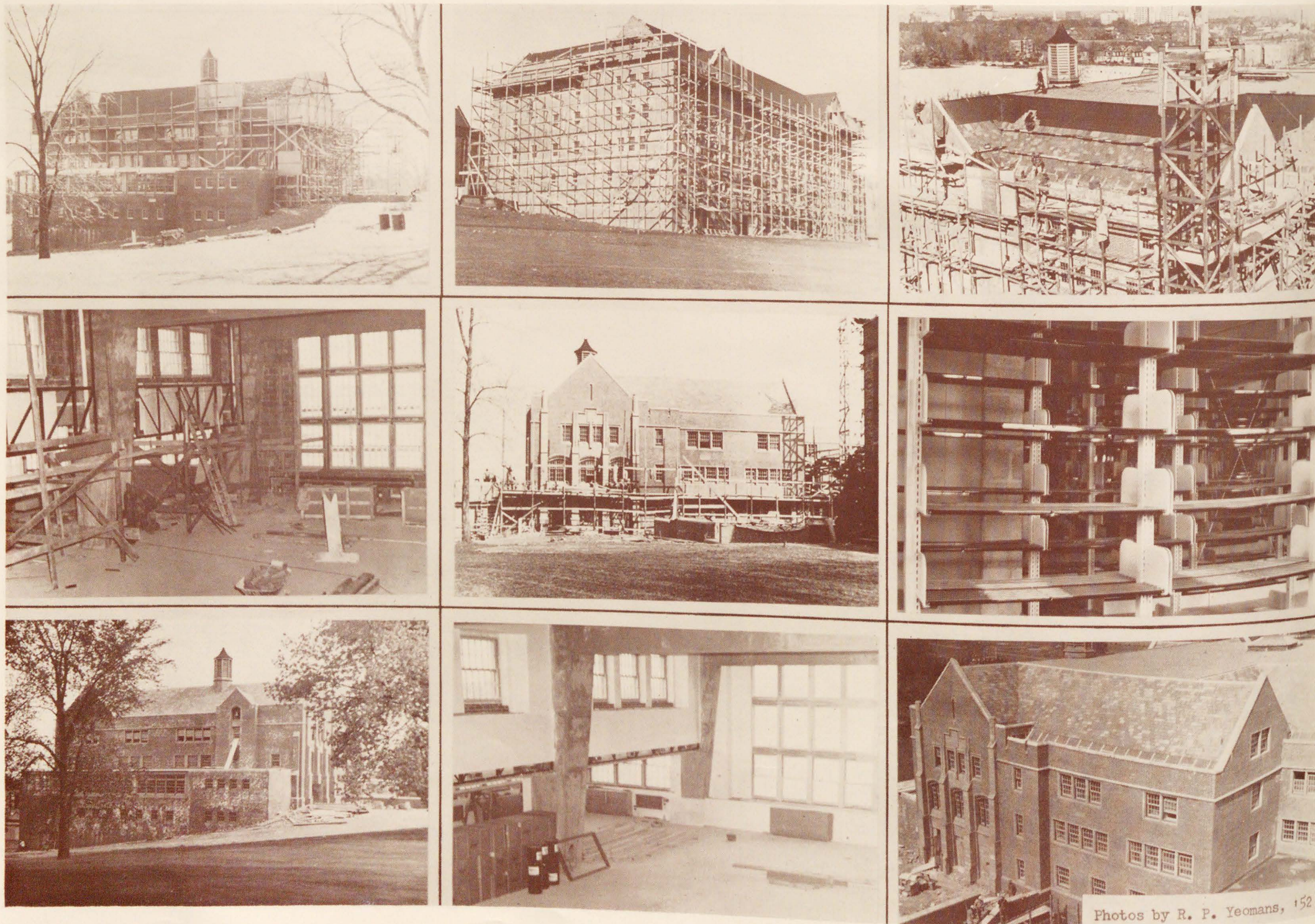


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Top: Feb. 6, 1952—The building nears its final form; Feb. 6—A view of the southeast corner; Feb. 29—The slate roof is nailed on. Second row: Mar. 20—The reading room again, this time enclosed and dry; Apr. 11—Final cleaning and finishing of the main entrance; May 9—A portion of the 25 tons of stacks in the new library. Bottom: May 9—Leaves on the trees again and complete except for cleaning and finishing touches; May 9—Decorating of the reading room begins; May 9—A little paint on the windows and landscaping and the job is done. (All photos in this series by Richard P. Yeomans, '52.)



Photos by R. P. Yeomans, '52

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